

In the claims:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 3-4, 7-8, 11-12, and 26-27.

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting growth or differentiation of an epithelial cell, comprising contacting at least an epithelial cell with an amount of an agent effective to inhibit at least one of the growth or differentiation of said epithelial cell, wherein said agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody, and wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is selected from 5E1, AP.G6, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody thereof, or fragments thereof.

2. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is an ~~anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody,~~ a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or fragments thereof.

3-4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting growth of an epithelial tissue, comprising contacting at least the epithelial tissue with an amount of an agent effective to inhibit proliferation of at least the epithelial cells in the tissue, wherein the agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody, and wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is selected from 5E1, AP.G6, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody thereof, or fragments thereof.

6. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is an ~~anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody,~~ a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or fragments thereof.

7-8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting growth of hair on an animal, comprising treating the animal with an amount of an agent effective to inhibit growth of hair on said animal, wherein the agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody, ~~and wherein said~~ which anti-hedgehog antibody inhibits proliferation of hair follicle keratinocytes, and wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is

selected from 5E1, AP.G6, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody thereof, or fragments thereof.

10. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 9, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is ~~an anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody,~~ a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or fragments thereof.

11-12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a cutaneous epithelial cell.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a dermal keratinocyte.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a mucosal epithelial cell.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is an epithelial stem cell.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is a hair follicle stem cell.

18. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the epithelial cell is treated in an animal and the agent is administered to the animal as a therapeutic composition comprising the agent, which therapeutic composition inhibits at least one of the growth or differentiation of the epithelial cell.

19. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 5, wherein the epithelial tissue is treated in an animal and the agent is administered to the animal as a therapeutic composition comprising the agent, which therapeutic composition inhibits proliferation of cells in the tissue.

20. **(Original)** The method of claims 1 or 5, wherein the agent is applied topically.

21. **(Currently amended)** The method of claims 2, 6, or 10, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody ~~homolog~~ binds to a Sonic hedgehog protein.
22. **(Currently amended)** The method of claims 2, 6, or 10, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody ~~homolog~~ binds to an Indian hedgehog protein.
23. **(Currently amended)** The method of claims 2, 6, or 10, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody ~~homolog~~ binds to a Desert hedgehog protein.
24. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting the proliferation of hair follicle cells, comprising contacting the cells with an amount of an agent effective to decrease the proliferation of the hair follicle cells, wherein the agent is an anti-hedgehog antibody, and wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is selected from 5E1, AP.G6, a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody thereof, or fragments thereof.
25. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 24, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is an ~~anti-hedgehog antibody homolog selected from a human anti-hedgehog antibody, a chimeric anti-hedgehog antibody,~~ a humanized anti-hedgehog antibody, or fragments thereof.
- 26-29. **(Cancelled)**
30. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is 5E1.
31. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is AP.G6.
32. **(New)** The method of claim 9, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is 5E1.
33. **(New)** The method of claim 9, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is AP.G6.
34. **(New)** The method of claim 24, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is 5E1.
35. **(New)** The method of claim 24, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is AP.G6.

36. (New) The method of any of claims 30-35, wherein the anti-hedgehog antibody is applied topically.